

Claims

- [c1] A pet food comprising a first dietary level of protein and a supplemental amount of at least one amino acid in an amount effective to maintain lean body mass protection equivalent to a pet food containing a second dietary level of protein which is higher than the first dietary level of protein.
- [c2] 2.pet food in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the at least one amino acid is selected from lysine and cysteine.
- [c3] A food in accordance with Claim 2 wherein the food comprises an amount of lysine in the range from about 2.0% to about 3.5% of the feline diet.
- [c4] A food in accordance with Claim 2 wherein the food comprises an amount of lysine in the range from about 2.7% to about 3% of the feline diet.
- [c5] A food in accordance with Claim 2 wherein the amount of cysteine is from about 0.50% to about 0.75% of the feline diet
- [c6] A food in accordance with Claim 2 wherein the amount of cysteine is from about 0.6% to about 0.66% of the feline diet.
- [c7] A food in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the food is at least one of an extruded food, a canned food, and a baked dry food.
- [c8] A food comprising a dietary protein level and a supplemental amount of at least one amino acid sufficient to maintain muscle mass in a senior feline.
- [c9] A food in accordance with Claim 8 wherein the at least one amino acid is selected from lysine and cysteine.
- [c10] A food in accordance with Claim 9 wherein the food comprises an amount of lysine in the range from about 2.0% to about 3.5% of the feline diet.
- [c11] A food in accordance with Claim 9 wherein the food comprises an amount of lysine in the range from about 6.7% to about 12.5% of the dietary protein level in the feline diet.
- [c12] A food in accordance with Claim 9 wherein the food comprises an amount of

cysteine in the range from about 0.50% to about 0.75% of the feline diet.

- [c13] A food in accordance with Claim 9 wherein the food comprises an amount of cysteine in the range from about 1.67% to about 2.68% of the dietary protein level in the feline diet.
- [c14] A food in accordance with Claim 8 wherein the dietary protein level is in the range of about 28% to about 35% of the feline diet dry matter.
- [c15] A food in accordance with Claim 8 wherein the amount of the at least one amino acid is sufficient to maintain the muscle mass of a senior feline substantially equivalent to that attainable from a feline food including a 50% dietary protein level.
- [c16] A food in accordance with Claim 8 wherein the food is at least one of an extruded food, a canned food, and a baked dry food.
- [c17] A food supplement comprising at least one amino acid in an amount effective to maintain a feline lean body mass protection substantially equivalent to a pet food containing a first dietary protein level when the feline is fed a pet food containing a second, lower, dietary protein level in combination with the food supplement.
- [c18] A food supplement in accordance with Claim 17 wherein the at least one amino acid is selected from lysine and cysteine.
- [c19] A food supplement in accordance with Claim 18 wherein the amount of lysine is in the range from about 2.0% to about 3.5% of the feline diet.
- [c20] A food supplement in accordance with Claim 18 wherein the amount of cysteine is in the range from about 0.50% to about 0.75% of the feline diet.
- [c21] A food supplement in accordance with Claim 18 wherein the pet food includes a dietary protein level in the range from about 28% to about 35%.
- [c22] A food supplement in accordance with Claim 21 wherein the food comprises an amount of lysine in the range from about 6.7% to about 12.5% of the dietary protein level in the feline diet.

- [c23] A food supplement in accordance with Claim 21 wherein the amount of cysteine is from about 1.67% to about 2.68% of the dietary protein level in the feline diet.
- [c24] A process for preparing a feline food which comprises providing as a part of a feline ration, a supplemental amount of at least one amino acid in an amount effective to provide a feline lean body mass protection equivalent to that attainable from a diet containing about 50% protein.
- [c25] A process in accordance with Claim 24 wherein the at least one amino acid is selected from lysine and cysteine.
- [c26] A process in accordance with Claim 25 wherein the amount of lysine is in the range from about 2.0% to about 3.5% of the feline diet.
- [c27] A process in accordance with Claim 25 wherein the amount of cysteine is in the range from about 0.50% to about 0.75% of the feline diet.
- [c28] A method for retarding pre-mature aging of a feline comprising:
incorporating, in a feline food having a protein content of less than about 35%, a supplemental amount of at least one amino acid in an amount effective to retard premature aging compared to premature aging experienced by a feline fed the food without the supplemental amount of the at least one amino acid;
and
feeding the food with the supplemental amount of the at least one amino acid to the feline.
- [c29] A method in accordance with Claim 28 wherein the at least one amino acid comprises at least one of lysine and cysteine.
- [c30] A method in accordance with Claim 29 wherein the amount of lysine is in the range from about 2.0% to about 3.5% of the feline diet.
- [c31] A method in accordance with Claim 29 wherein the amount of cysteine is in the range from about 0.50% to about 0.75% of the diet.
- [c32] A method in accordance with Claim 28 wherein incorporating comprises manufacturing the food with the supplemental amount of the at least one amino

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feeding the diet with the supplemental amount of the at least one amino acid to the feline.

- [c41] A method in accordance with Claim 40 wherein the amount of lysine is in the range from about 2.0% to about 3.5% of the feline diet.
- [c42] A method in accordance with Claim 40 wherein the amount of cysteine is in the range from about 0.50% to about 0.75% of the diet.
- [c43] A method in accordance with Claim 40 wherein incorporating comprises incorporating an amount of lysine in the range from about 6.7% to about 12.5% of the dietary protein level in the feline diet.
- [c44] A method in accordance with Claim 40 wherein incorporating comprises incorporating an amount of cysteine in the range from about 1.67% to about 2.68% of the dietary protein level in the feline diet.
- [c45] A method in accordance with Claim 40 wherein incorporating comprises manufacturing a food with the supplemental amount of the at least one amino acid incorporated therein.
- [c46] A method in accordance with Claim 40 wherein incorporating comprises applying the supplemental amount of the at least one amino acid as a coating to the food.
- [c47] A method of compensating for a lowered dietary protein level in a feline diet, said method comprising feeding a feline an amount of at least one amino acid sufficient to compensate for the lowered dietary protein level by providing substantially the same lean body mass protection to the feline that a feline diet including a higher dietary protein level would provide.
- [c48] A method in accordance with Claim 47 wherein the at least one amino acid comprises at least one of lysine and cysteine.
- [c49] A method in accordance with Claim 48 wherein the amount of lysine is in the range from about 2.0% to about 3.5% of the feline diet.
- [c50] A method in accordance with Claim 48 wherein the amount of lysine is in the

range from about 6.7% to about 12.5% of the dietary protein level in the feline diet.

[c51] A method in accordance with Claim 48 wherein the amount of cysteine is in the range from about 0.50% to about 0.75% of the diet.

[c52] A method in accordance with Claim 48 wherein the amount of cysteine is in the range from about 1.67% to about 2.68% of the dietary protein level in the feline diet.

[c53] A method in accordance with Claim 47 further comprising incorporating the at least one amino acid in a food fed to the feline.

[c54] A method in accordance with Claim 47 further comprising providing the at least one amino acid as a supplement to a food fed the feline.

[c55] A method in accordance with Claim 47 wherein the lowered dietary protein level comprises a dietary protein level less than about 35%.